

Letter from John Pate (1841-1863) to brother Sabe Pate (1833-1872). John died in war. He was a private in Co. D of the 31st Illinois Infantry. He was mustered into service 30 August 1862 by Capt. Morrison. At the time of his enlistment he was 5'7", had red hair, gray eyes and a light complexion. Spelling & grammar are from the original. John died 6 days after writing this letter. Brother Matthew Pate had died back in February. Their mother, Ravana Draper Pate, had died in March. This Pate family originated in Jackson Co. Tennessee, moving to Jackson Co. Illinois in the 1840s. "Father" is Perlemon Pate (1810-1894)

Camp GW  
Vicksburg, Miss  
July the 13<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear brother I now seat my self this eavening to write you a few lines in answer to your moste kind letter whitch came to me yesterday eavening whitch found us all well as common but my self I have not been well for some time but not so bad bewhat I could still keep up. Sabe I was very glad to hear from you all it gave me great pleasure to hear that you was all well Sabe you stated in your letter that you had a great deal of hard work to do and you had just got the wheat on Shock.

Dear brother I wish I could be there to help you through with it I am sorry to hear that you had so bad luck as to hurt your leg but Sabe that is nothing by the side of your friends and see them falling on both sides of you we attacked this place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and after working and fighting both day and night as we marched into Vicksburg on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. They surrenderd on that day we perrold something near 32,000 prisoners besides the generls and the staff officers they surrenderd on becess they had nothing to eat but mule meat and cow peas and they said that they made them all sick to eat them there is a great many of them sais that they will not fight any more they say that they now whipped and they are going home and stay there

Well Sabe I am glad to hear that you and father has got sutch fine tombstones for our friends.

Sabe I want to tell father to write me wheather or not Captain Casey has ever written to you concerning Matthews pay or not if he has not I will get it fixed up and send it to you Casey is now dead he got killed at this place and I can not tell whether he sent it to you or not if he did not I will get Captain Anderson to write it out and I will send it to you Write soon as you can and let me know about it. I am glad to hear that my money came home safe. Father I am very glad that you let Mr. Griffin have my horse to work but I am a feard that they boys will let him run off and kill himself I must now close I send my best respects to you all So no ore but still remains your brother until death.

From John Pate  
To Sabe Pate